(b) whether Government are aware that none of the workers of such closed mills were entitled/given any of the such benefits; and

(c) if so, the justification for this apathy towards these workers and the steps taken by Government to implement this scheme in a proper perspective?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) Since its inception, benefits under the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme have been extended by the Government to mills in the private sector only.

Objectives of Textile Workers' Relief Fund

3192. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Textile Workers' Relief Fund set up and what are the objectives thereof; and

(b) the categories of mills and textile workers of Public and Private Sector eligible for getting relief from this fund as per the provisions made in the scheme for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) came into operation w.e.f. 15.9.1986. The objective of TWRFS is to provide interim relief to workers rendered jobless as a consequence of permanent closure of units. As per the TWRFS, a closed textile unit means a unit—

(i) that is licensed or registered under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 or with the Textile Commissioner as a medium scale unit on the date of the closure;

(ii) that has obtained the requisite permission for closure from the appropriate State Government under Section 25(O) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or the assets of which have been taken over by Official Liquidator appointed under the Companies Act.

(iii) that was closed down on or after 6th June, 1985.

Moreover, a worker should have been engaged in a closed textile unit on the date of its closure continuously for five years or more, have been earning a wage equivalent of Rs. 2500 per month or less and have been on the records of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner of the State concerned. Since April, 1992, the TWRFS has also been made applicable to the cases of mills of partial closure on a case to case basis. The cases of partial closure are restricted to cases wherein the State Governments recommend that an entire uneconomic activity (like weaving or processing) is scrapped as a part of rehabilitation package for a sick/weak mill (as per the RBI definition) approved by Nodal Agency/BIFR, provided the scrapped capacity is surrendered for cancellation and endorsement is made on the licence/ registration certificate to this effect. Since its inception, the benefits under the TWRFS have been extended to the mills in the private sector only.

मुरादाबाद में पीतल उद्योग

3193. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश का मुरादाबाद शहर पीतल के सामान पर नक्काशी करने के लिए प्रसिद्ध है और पीतल के इन सामानों के निर्यात से भारी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की जाती है;

(ख) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने अक्तूबर 1995 में वहां अवसंरचनात्मक सुविधाओं को उन्नत करने हेतु कोई प्रस्ताव भेजा था; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस प्रस्ताव को कब तक मंजूरी दे देगी और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशीराम राणा): (क) जी हां।

(ख) और (ग) वर्ष 1995 में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा, तत्कालीन प्रस्तावित निर्यात गहन क्षेत्र योजना के अन्तर्गत 46.21 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से मुरादाबाद में अवसंरचनात्मक विकास के लिए एक परियोजना प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया गया था। तथापि, यह योजना कार्यान्वित नहीं की गई थी तथा परियोजना प्रारम्भ नहीं की जा सकी।

वर्ष 1995-96 में, क्रिटिकल इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर बैलेंस स्कीम के नाम से प्रारम्भ की गई एक नई योजना के अन्तर्गत, एक नया प्रस्ताव उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा मुरादाबाद में पावर पद्धति में सुधार के लिए प्रस्तुत किया गया था। क्रिटिकल इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर बैलेंस स्कीम की अधिकार प्राप्त समिति ने पावर पद्धति के सुधार के लिए 8.00 करोड़ रुपये के अनुदान की स्वीकृति दे दी है तथा 6.50 करोड़ रुपये की राशि राज्य सरकार को पहले ही रिलीज़ की जा चुकी है।

NTC Losses

3194. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of employees in all the units of NTC;

(b) what is the cumulative loss incurred by all the units of NTC so far;

(c) what is the amount allocated for plan and non-plan for the losing NTC mills in 1998-99 budget; and

(d) whether these units can be revived, if not, the reasons for not closing these units?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) As on 31.3.98 the NTC mills had a total number of 95958 employees.

(b) The cumulative loss of NTC are Rs. 5268.66 crores (Pro.) as on 31.3.98.

(c) In the 1998-99 budget, a total provision of Rs. 380 crores exists under non-plan loans to NTC.

(d) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning postitive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme in Maharashtra

3195. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cover more villages under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme in Maharashtra during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof district-wise;

(c) the number of persons who will get employment under the scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No, Sir. The Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme has been discontinued with effect from 1.4.1997.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Packaging of cement in HDPE/PP Bags

3196. SHRI BRAHMKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that HDPE/PP bags are more suitable for packing cement than jute bags;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to the Central Government to exempt the cement, fertilizers and other industries from jute packaging orders;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and